

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A flow regulator has a pair of side walls extending generally parallel to one another, a bottom wall connecting the side walls to one another and defining an elongate channel for receiving a compressible tube, a roller rotatably and shiftably mounted to the side walls for rolling along the tube in the channel and compressing the tube against the bottom wall. The bottom wall is provided with a formation which varies from a first end of the channel towards an opposite, second end thereof, whereby compressive force applied to the tube via the roller is different at different longitudinal positions of the roller along the channel. A bracket or bow-shaped bridge is disposed about or between the side walls at one end of the channel. The bracket is in contact with outer surfaces of the side walls only in regions of the side walls spaced from the bottom wall. The bracket or bridge is advantageously made with less inherent stiffness than the assembly defining the elongate channel. In an alternative embodiment, the side walls are thicker at discrete positions along the side walls to eliminate the need for a bracket or bridge. In another alternative embodiment, the side walls extend from the bottom wall at less than ninety degree angles such that the distance between the free ends of the side walls are smaller than the distance between the side walls at the bottom wall.